AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 10/678,375

<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

I.   Drawings

The Drawings stand objected to for issues raised in Paragraph 4 of the pending Office

Action. Applicant submits a replacement Fig. 2. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner

to indicate acceptance of replacement Fig. 2.

II.   Claim Objections

Claims 1-20 stand objected to for various informalities. The claims have been amended

per the Examiner's suggestions.

III.   Claims Rejections

Claims 1-20 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,026,228 to Imai.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least for the following reasons.

The claimed invention addresses the problem of integrated circuit design. Notably, the

claimed invention enables a designer to shortcut the design process by, instead of designing the

entire circuit of the entire product, choosing <u>pre-generated and commercially available</u> functional

circuit modules that can be interconnected to generate the complete working circuit design. This

is a very different invention than what is disclosed by Imai. That is, Imai teaches a conventional

circuit design tool which enable generating new circuit designs using parameters provided by the

user. See, e.g., Col. 9, Lns. 14-16: "the constituent elements of individual object of design can

be <u>generated</u> by giving a parameter value to the parametrized model" emphasis added. That is,

in the conventional tool, such as that described by Imai, the user select an element to design, say

a CPU, and provides the required parameters, e.g., speed, power consumption, etc. The tool then

generates a circuit design matching the entered parameters. This is the same as the prior art

described in the Background of the Invention section of the subject Application. In contrast, the

subject invention provides a tool that already includes pre-generated and commercially available

designs, so that the user may select several of these designs and generate a new working circuit.

Additionally, the claims recite that at least one of the functional circuit modules includes

design information of at least two different specifications. The examples given in the subject

Application and recited in various dependent claims include, e.g., operational speed, length in

instruction or bus width for processors. To illustrate, in Figure 5 of Imai different classes are

tabulated, wherein one of the entries is "processor." However, no different specifications for the

processors are given. Rather, different <u>types</u> of processors are disclosed. This is understandable,

as Imai does not store different pre-generated processors, but rather generates a design according

to the provided parameters. Therefore, there is no possibility to provide processors of different

specifications. The specifications will be determined by the parameters entered by the user, as

explained on column 9 of Imai.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and

10 are allowable over Imai. Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-9 and 11-

20 are allowable by definition for their dependency on allowable claims 1 and 10.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (650) 625-8100
Facsimile: (650) 625-8110

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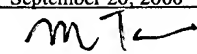
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith is a Replacement Sheet for Fig. 2 in which the connecting lines have

been replaced by double-headed arrows per indicating potential flow of information.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge these drawings.

Attachment: One (1) Replacement Sheet for Fig. 2.